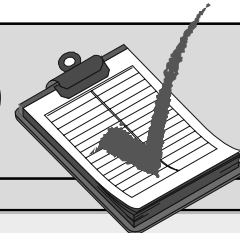


CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Dec. 30, 2002

NEWS BRIEFS

EMPLOYEE WEB SITE

KYEmployee has been implemented for the employees of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The site at <http://KYEmployee.state.ky.us> provides a central point of access for information and services, most of which are currently available through individual agency web pages. State employees can use the site as their "one-stop-shop" for resources, news and information. The site also has a 'News & Announcements' feature containing relevant employee news items.

CLARIFICATION

The CHS Minds Wide Open Art Show on the 5th floor will run through March 1st -- not Jan. 1st as indicated in the last newsletter. For further information about the show, contact Deborah Skinner, Operation Program Support, 502/564-6631.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Tips on How to Stick with your New Year's Resolutions:

1. Focus on positive self-talk. Congratulate yourself every time you take a step towards your goal.
2. Avoid berating yourself if you should fall back or break a resolution. Brush yourself off and start over.
3. Stick to your resolution by considering it a promise to yourself, not a test of your willpower.

HIPAA Training Set For This Month

All CHS employees are required to attend a HIPAA Awareness Training Session to become familiar with the law and the responsibilities it places on each CHS employee to protect health information. Most employees of MH/MR and Medicaid have already completed the required sessions. Employees should talk with their supervisor about attending the session that fits the work schedule best.

Training Dates

January 10, 2003

Jan. 15

Jan. 22

Jan. 23

Jan. 24

Session Times

9 AM, 11 AM and 2 PM
each date

Sessions are about
90 minutes in length

Location

All sessions in
Health
Services Auditorium

Facilities and Field Offices should check with local training staff regarding onsite HIPAA Awareness Training dates.

Experts Lead Training On KIDS NOW Initiative

Dr. Ira Chasnoff and Dr. Richard McGourty from the Children's Research Triangle in Chicago recently spent two days in Kentucky providing consultation on the KIDS NOW: Substance Abuse and Pregnancy Initiative. Chasnoff is the creator of the 4Ps Plus, a substance abuse screening tool currently being used in health departments throughout Kentucky with pregnant women. Chasnoff and McGourty are national experts in the field of alcohol and drug related effects on infants and children.

Over 100 people attended the training, which was held at the Division of Substance Abuse in Frankfort. State leaders and program providers from across Kentucky participated in

the team building exercises and brainstormed about how to overcome barriers facing the substance abuse and pregnancy initiative. Chasnoff provided valuable information about the detrimental affects of in-utero substance abuse and the impact of drug use during pregnancy on a variety of state-run systems, including schools and child protective services.

The training helped the participants mobilize around the issue of substance abuse during pregnancy and think of ways to keep the momentum going for this very important KIDS NOW initiative.

"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."



Test Your HIPPA Knowledge

Did you know HIPAA is an acronym used to reference the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996?"

Test your HIPAA knowledge...

Questions:

1. Who may access confidential information?
2. What is meant by having access to the "minimum necessary" information to do our jobs?

Answers:

1. Only those people who need access for business reasons and who have been authorized to receive it.
2. We have access to all information that we need to do our jobs, but we should not have access to unnecessary information.



Behavioral Health Forum

The second Kentucky Behavioral Health Careers - Professional Alignment Forum will be held Jan. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the University Club, University of Louisville. The Department for Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services, as a part of its charge from the HB 843 Commission, has been spearheading a movement to address a variety of behavioral health workforce issues across the commonwealth through meetings and forums. The Department held its first meeting of stakeholders in May.

Regional teams were organized and began identifying problems, designing plans to address the issues and reaching out to other local stakeholders.



Kentucky Smallpox Plan Approved By CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has approved the Kentucky Department for Public Health's plan to offer smallpox vaccine to up to 8,000 health care workers and public health professionals starting as soon as next month in compliance with President Bush's national plan.

Kentucky's Pre-Event Vaccination Plan, submitted to CDC Dec. 9, outlines procedures for offering vaccine to members of Smallpox Response Teams across the state.

Individuals to be offered the vaccine have been identified by Kentucky's 55 local health departments and 103 acute care hospitals to provide medical, disease investigation and vaccination capabilities in the event of a smallpox outbreak. Vaccination will be conducted at 10-12 regional vaccination clinic sites and will be voluntary.

The White House plan calls for three phases of vaccinations. The first phase, expected to begin in late January, calls for vaccinating

public health and health care workers across the nation who would be most likely to first come into contact with smallpox cases should they occur.

Phase two involves offering vaccine to first responders, such as fire fighters, emergency medical workers, law enforcement and other health care workers. The state expects the CDC to release additional supplies of the vaccine for this purpose after phase one.

Phase three would involve making the vaccine available to the general public. However, the CDC has not released vaccine for this purpose and federal officials don't recommend immunization of the general public.



The CHS Checkup is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. View newsletters at the CHS website at: <http://chs.state.ky.us/> Printed with state funds.

